

GUARDING THE TREASURY.

**CHECK ON EXPENDING MONEY WITH-
OUT AUTHORITY OF LAW.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Ever since the new administration came into power the heads of

several departments have been in a row with the accounting officers of the Treasury over disallowed items of expenditures made under their orders. The Auditors and Comptrollers of the Treasury have insisted upon a strict adherence to the law, and have refused to allow credit for any payments that are not

properly warranted by the standards of the Republican administrations there has grown a practice of spending Government money at the discretion of the disbursing officer or upon the order of a member of the Cabinet, regardless whether an appropriation had been made by Congress for that purpose or not. This practice was tolerated by the old accounting officers.

When the new members of the Cabinet came to power they were naturally under the influence of the old Republican clerks and dis-

and fell into the practices of their predecessors without considering whether they were warranted by law. The accounts and vouchers were not properly checked off and stopped payment upon a large number of accounts involving expenditures made under the orders of Secretary Bayard, Secretary Endicott, Secretary Lamar, Attorney-General Garland, and, in fact, all the members of the Cabinet. Comptroller Durham and Maynard very promptly

then they reached their desks, and as a consequence there is a wrangle, with the injured dignity of a Cabinet officer upon one side, and the inflexible verdict of the accounting officers on the other. The latter point to the language of the statutes, which, they say, are mandatory upon a Cabinet officer as well as themselves, while the Cabinet officers argue that practice and precedents are equivalent to law in such matters.

As a case in point, the Secretary of War ordered the Secretary of the War Department to

tical Association at Berlin. The second impropriety of the Treasury referred to was that the United States Congress had not authorized the expenditure. The Secretary of War ordered Capt. Mills to India to witness manoeuvres of the army and make a report thereon. The accounting officers of the Treasury have refused to allow the accounts of Capt. Mills because he lacks authority from Congress for spending him there. The Secretary of War claims the right to order an officer wherever he thinks necessary for him to go, and that the officer must obey, resign, or submit to a court-martial.

il, however, be compelled to pay his own expenses to India, although acting under orders of the Secretary of War, unless Congress will make an appropriation to pay him because the United States Government will not yield, and Dr. Hillebrand will be required to pay his own expenses to the International Medical Association unless Congress shall pass a bill for his relief. The members of the Cabinet have appealed to President Cleveland, but he refuses to interfere.

and of a department, is vested with a certain amount of discretion, which he proposes to exercise, and that his approval is a condition sufficient to the payment without regard to the opinion of the Comptrollers and auditors. Mr. Bayard argues that the duty of the Comptroller and Auditor is simply to see whether the expenditures are made according to the proper form, and whether the mechanical computations are correct, and that they have nothing to do with the purpose for which the

rely within the discretion of the Secretary of State. For example, an employee of the State Department was entrusted with an important mission and in his account he charged more than the amount usually allowed for hotel bills and transportation. Mr. Bayard directed this expenditure and approved the accounts when they came in, but Mr. Durham very promptly refused to pay them, and allowed the ordinary amount for hotel bills, which was \$5 a day. There was a

and the case is not yet settled. The accounting officers say that there is nothing in the law to warrant the exercise of a discretionary power to deposit the part of a member of the Cabinet in the expenditure of money for the purpose for which it was not specifically appropriated, and that if the members of the Cabinet do not like the way their accounts are now treated they must go to Congress and have a change made in the law.

At 9 o'clock yesterday morning five graceful bin sloops and fifteen open boats of various forms of sailing started from the moorings of the Newark Yacht Club at Centre street bridge, Newark, and were swiftly borne down the murky Passaic by the swollen tide which steadily poured down from the saturated meadows and valleys above. The wind came in vigorous gusts from the north-east; the most favorable current for the outward run, and the boats went faster than ever moved before. It was the opening cruise of

run down the river and bay took the form of a crab race, and the craft presented a pretty picture as they flew swiftly from the mouth of the river to the Heron Point light house close hauled and without a reef. The yachtsmen dined at Elm Park, 3.1. They reached home early in the evening. The cruise was thirty-six miles in length by the straightest course that could be made. Commodore Russell ordered the work on the deck of the Tidal Wave, which he is now racing, in the Passaic.

THE New Brighton, S. L., the Cloud, Capt. Rash, with

Denouncing the Nooney Excise Bill.
The Sub-Executive Committee of the County Democracy adopted on Saturday night resolutions condemning the Nooney Excise bill, which has passed the assembly as the result of a deal between Democrats in

can. The resolutions say: "The bill is undemocratic in principle. It overrides the right of the citizen to self-government and is an attempt to set aside the will of the people expressed at the polls in the choice of a Mayor selected for the very purpose of exercising the power of appointment. On behalf of all democrats and all citizens who believe that the voters of this city should have a fair right to require the Mayor to exercise his power of appointment in this bill as a matter of trading legislation such as makes responsible government in this city impossible."

The Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, at its meeting at Delmonico's on Wednesday night, will consider amendments to their sailing regulations, providing that professional crews shall be allowed on first-class boats. It is also proposed that the club's racing yachts to carry four professionals as a part of their crews. Two general orders from Commodore A. Case added, dated respectively May 10 and 12, on board the club's schooner, "Spartan." A. Case, Commodore of the New York Yacht Club, will preside, and call for the rendezvous of all the vessels of

Very Little Fire in St. Stephen's Church.
While the solemn high mass was in progress St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church in East Twenty-fifth street at 11 A. M. yesterday, one of the large Soral cases with which the altar of the Blessed Virgin was profusely adorned took fire from one of the many candles with which the altar was also illuminated. The assistant sexton, Mr. Johnson, immediately rushed into sanctuary, as did also a number of other gentlemen.

Brooklyn Varnishers Organizing.
Yesterday afternoon the polishers and varnishers of Brooklyn met in Military Hall, in Scholze and Howard streets, Williamsburgh, to form an association. Max Baer of the Varnishers' Union of this city presided. He and other members of the union said that the association is necessary as the city was now receiving \$15 a year, and was working him down.

be organized, and would soon join the new organization. More than 200 names were placed on the list. A mass meeting of the polishers and varnishers will be held during the week. Next Sunday the association will elect officers.

The annual meeting of the Young Men's Hebrew Association was held yesterday afternoon in their new corner of Lexington avenue and Fifty-ninth street. These officers were elected: President, J. W. ...

JOINTINGS ABOUT TOWN.
 Miss Mary Anderson is at the Brevort House. An unknown man stabbed Sarah Saher, aged 57, of 70 Broadway street, in the shoulder early yesterday. She was taken to the Roosevelt slip hospital.

Frank Keeler, of 73 Forsyth street got in a row with an Italian, whose name is not known, to the police in the Lexington Avenue district yesterday. The Italian knocked him down and attempted to kill him. Keeler was taken to the Chambers street hospital.